

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08909 141115Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 044753

O R 141035Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5302
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T BEIRUT 8909

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY. DAMASCUS & JIDDA FOR THE AMBASSADORS.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, PLO XF, US, CASC (MORGAN, ERNEST)
SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PALESTINIAN ROLE IN RELEASE COLONEL
MORGAN

REF: STATE 164779

1. FBIS AMMAN'S 121732 Z JUL 75 CARRIES TRANSLATION OF
FOLLOWING PORTION PRIME MINISTER RASHID KARAME'S
STATEMENT UPON RECEIVING COLONEL MORGAN: QUOTE THE CASE
OF COL. MORGAN AND HIS DETENTION HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MATTERS
WHICH PREOCCUPIED US THESE DAYS. THAT IS WHY TODAY.
AFTER HIS RELEASE, WE THANK ALL THE PALESTINIAN ORGANIZA-
TIONS AND SEVERAL PERSONALITIES WHO HELPED US ACHIEVE
THIS RESULT. ON THIS OCCASION, WE CONSIDER IT PRESIDENT
FORD'S RIGHT AND DUTY WITH A U.S. CITIZEN TO SEEK TO RELEASE
HIM. ON THIS OCCASION IT IS OUR RIGHT, TOO, TO DRAW
THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE OF THE PALESTINE
PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN ROBBED OF THEIR HOMELAND AND
HAVE BEEN DISPLACED FROM THEIR LAND AND HOME, SO
THAT MORE ATTENTION MAY BE PAID TO FINDING JUST
SOLUTIONS TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLES ISSUE AND TO SUPPORT
THEIR LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS. END QUOTE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08909 141115Z

2. TEXT CONTAINED REFTEL WAS PERFECT FOR OUR OFFICIAL

STATEMENT. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT WE FIND SOME WAY TO ACKNOWLEDGE OR TAKE NOTE OF WHAT ARAFAT DID IN OBTAINING COLONEL MORGAN'S SAFE RETURN.

3. ALL INTELLIGENCE WE HAVE RECEIVED INDICATES ARAFAT AND ZOHER MOHSEN OF SAIQA (UNDOUBTEDLY ACTING UNDER ORDERS OF SARG) DID WHAT THEY COULD TO ACHIEVE MORGAN'S RELEASE. COMMUNIQUE OF JULY 9 (EMBTel 8716) IS A DOCUMENT UNIQUE IN PLO HISTORY, DRAWING MORE CLOSELY THAN EVER BEFORE THE LINE BETWEEN ARAFAT AND HIS MODERATES AND REJECTIONIST PALESTINIANS. I AM CONVINCED THAT ARAFAT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT (INDEED COULD NOT) HAVE PUT HIMSELF AND HIS PRESTIGE IN SO EXPOSED A PUBLIC POSITION IF HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND TO FOLLOW THROUGH "IN EXTREMIS". KARAME AND HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HAVE SUCCEEDED IN RETREIVING MORGAN WITHOUT ARAFAT'S HELP. ANOTHER REASON FOR MY HOPE THAT ARAFAT CAN RECEIVE A PAT ON THE BACK IS THAT HIS STAND ON THE MORGAN CASE IS, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THE FIRST TIME HE HAS COME OUT PUBLICLY AND WITH SOME EFICACY AGAINST TERRORISM. THIS COULD AFFECT OUR COMPATRIOTS NOT ONLY IN THE LEBANON BUT ALSO THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

4. POSITION ASSUMED BY ARAFAT, MOHSEN AND OTHER MODERATE ELEMENTS OBVIOUSLY SERVES THEIR OWN INTERESTS AN INDICATION THAT THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS AND LEGITIMATE NATIONALISTS. THIS, I ASSUME IS A DEVELOPMENT THAT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED -- ANOTHER REASON FOR OUR TAKING NOTE OF IT.

5. FINALLY, EXPERTS HERE IN PALESTINIAN MATTERS ARE ALL CONVINCED THAT WE MAY WELL BE ON THE VERGE OF A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN PALESTINIAN MODERATES AND REJECTIONISTS. I BELIEVE THIS ACCOUNTS TO A LARGE DEGREE FOR KARAME'S STATEMENT ABOVE, AS WELL AS STATEMENT KING KHALED'S ACTION (JIDDA'S 5014), PLUS SADAT AND OTHER MODERATES' ASSISTANCE. WERE WE TO TAKE NOTE OF ARAFAT'S EFFORTS FOR MORGAN, THIS WOULD NOT ONLY HELP MODERATES BUT ALSO SHOW THAT THE USG IS COGNIZANT OF WHAT IS TRANSPIRING HERE WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 08909 141115Z

6. IF STATEMENT RE PALESTINIAN ASSISTANCE FOR MORGAN IS A DELICATE MATTER FOR U.S., IT IS EQUALLY DELICATE FOR PLO MODERATES WHOSE RIVALS ARE ALREADY ACCUSING THEM OF COZYING UP TO THE AMERICANS. WE HAVE CONSIDERED THIS MATTER CAREFULLY AND ALL MEMBERS OF MY STAFF CONCUR THAT THE PLUSES OUTWEIGH THIS NEGATIVE. I REALIZE FOREGOING WILL NOT BE EASY BUT I AM CONVINCED

THAT A STATEMENT BY "HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS"
OR A LEAK TO RESPONSIBLE JOURNALIST CITING CONSTRUCTIVE
EFFORTS NOT ONLY OF LEBANESE BUT ALSO PALESTINIAN
PERSONALTIES IN SECURING MORGAN'S SAFE RETURN WOULD BE
TO THE OVERALL INTEREST OF THE USG.
GODLEY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT08909
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750242-0655
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750757/aaaabykn.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 164779
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PALESTINIAN ROLE IN RELEASE COLONEL MORGAN
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CASC, LE, XF, US, PLO, (MORGAN, ERNEST R), (ARAFAT, YASIR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006